Amendments to the Claims

The current listing of the claims replaces all previous amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A structure comprising:

a first material comprising a single plate ~~having a thickness of 1 millimeter or less, the plate~~ having top and bottom surfaces, the top and bottom surfaces defining a hole with a surface to be threaded therebetween and defining a concave portion and a convex portion surrounding the hole and having diameters larger than the hole, the concave portion defined in the top surface, ~~and~~ the convex portion defined in the bottom surface, the plate having a thickness of 1 millimeter or less adjacent the concave portion, and the convex portion extending a depth of at most one half the thickness of the plate;

a second material contacting the top surface of the first material such that a hole defined in the second material is aligned with the hole, the concave portion, and the convex portion in the first material; and

a tapping screw disposed through the holes, the concave portion, and the convex portion in the first and second materials to connect the first and second materials, a threaded portion of the tapping screw cooperating with a threaded surface of the first material that is tapped with the tapping screw, and a head of the tapping screw contacting the second material.

2. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of a bottom of the concave portion is larger by 0.1 millimeter to 0.5 millimeter than an outer diameter of the tapping screw.

3. (Currently Amended) The structure according to claim 1, wherein a depth of the concave portion is from 1/4 to 1/2 of [[a]] the thickness of the plate ~~first material in the concave portion~~.

4. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the concave portion comprises a trapezoidal shape, and the diameter of a portion of the concave portion adjacent the top surface is greater than the diameter of a portion of the concave portion adjacent the bottom surface.

5.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a structure, comprising:

forming in a first material a through hole and a concave portion on a top surface of the first material, the first material comprising a single plate and having a thickness adjacent the concave portion, and the convex portion extending a depth of at most one half the thickness of the first material;

contacting a second material with the top surface of the first material such that a through hole defined in the second material is aligned with the through hole and the concave portion in the first material; and

connecting the first and second materials by disposing a tapping screw through the concave portion and the through holes of the first and second materials such that a head of the tapping screw contacts the second material.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the concave portion is formed by half blanking.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

tapping with a threaded portion of the tapping screw a surface of the first material that defines the hole.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the concave portion is formed surrounding the through hole in the first material.